

**APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR USING A DIRECTORY SERVICE FOR  
AUTHENTICATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO ACCESS RESOURCES  
OUTSIDE OF THE DIRECTORY SERVICE**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5           An apparatus and method use the built-in authentication and authorization  
functions of a directory service to perform authentication and authorization for resources  
that are external to the directory service. A Lightweight Directory Access Protocol  
(LDAP) service is used in the preferred embodiments. The LDAP directory includes  
built-in functions for authenticating a user that requests access to an entry. Each resource  
10   that needs to be protected is mapped to an entry in the LDAP directory. These entries that  
correspond to protected resources external to the LDAP directory are called proxy entries.  
Proxy entries contain the authorization information for the corresponding protected  
resource in the form of an access control list for each entry that specifies the authorized  
users of the entry. When a user needs to access a protected resource, the user or an  
15   application uses the LDAP directory to determine whether the user is authenticated and  
authorized to access the proxy entry in the directory that corresponds to the resource. If  
the user is authenticated and authorized to access the proxy entry, the user may then  
access the corresponding external protected resource. The present invention thus allows  
the use of the internal LDAP authentication and authorization functions to determine  
20   which users are allowed to access protected resources that are external to the LDAP  
directory.